

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1-57 are pending. Claims 2, 4-17, 19-22, 24-31, 33-43, 45, 47-48 and 50-57 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 18, 23, 32, 44 and 49 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants do not admit that claims 1 and 32 are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Nonetheless, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1 and 32. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to the claims under §112 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that 5-7, 9-12, 22, 24, 28, 37, 40, 41, 48, 50, and 54 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-7, 9-12, 22, 24, 28, 37, 40, 41, 48, 50, and 54, as amended, are now allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requests the objection to claims 5-7, 9-12, 22, 24, 28, 37, 40, 41, 48, 50, and 54 be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 14, 32-33 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,832,067 of Herold (“Herold”).

Applicants do not admit that claims 1-3, 14, 32-33 and 42 are anticipated by Herold under §102(b). Nonetheless, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1, 3, and 32, and amend claims 2, 14, 33 and 42 to more properly or clearly define preexisting limitations. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to the claims under §102(b) be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,832,067 of Herold (“Herold”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,487 of Mainker (“Mainker”).

Applicants do not admit that claims 4 and 38 are unpatentable over Herold in view of Mainker under §103(a). Nonetheless, Applicants amend claims 4 and 38 to more properly define preexisting limitations. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to the claims under §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 13, 15-21, 23, 25-27, 29-31, 34-36, 39, 43-47, 49, 51-53 and 55-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,832,067 of Herold (“Herold”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,487 of Mainker (“Mainker”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,430 of Smith Dewey (“Smith”).

Applicants do not admit that claims 8, 13, 15-21, 23, 25-27, 29-31, 34-36, 39, 43-47, 49, 51-53 and 55-57 are unpatentable over Herold in view of Mainker and further in view of Smith under §103(a). Nonetheless, Applicants hereby cancel claims 18 and 44, and amend claims 8, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 23, 25-27, 29-31, 34-36, 39, 43, 45-47, 49, 51-53 and 55-57 to more properly

or clearly define preexisting limitations. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to the claims under §103(a) be withdrawn.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendments, and that the claims, as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: November 5, 2003

By: 
André Gibbs
Reg. No. 47,593

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8300